WINTER ★ SOLDIER

A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 9 ★★★

EDITORIAL

The GI Movement has been a part of the military almost since its inception. During every war of expansion, whether the Mexican Indian or Spanish Wars or others, soldiers and sailors revolted against the imperialist designs of a greedy few.

One of the reasons for the U.S. military disengagement in Indochina was the soldiers and sailors themselves. Whole companies revolted, pilots refused to fly, and even POWs spoke out against the War.

Presently the military is trying to professionalize itself in order to regain what it has lost. This is imperative to insure the ability of the military to engage in future interventions as it has in the past in Guatemala, Lebanon, Dominican Republic, Korea, Cuba, Panama, The Philippines, Indochina or Mexico.

This professionalism is bound to fail, though, because the military has not changed its racist, chauvinist or repressive character. Nor has it granted basic democratic rights of speech assembly or even a fair judicial process; although it now tries to camouflage these in "mod" form.

The military has succeeded in getting a lot of poor and unemployed people to enlist. But obviously military service is seen as a way out with unemployment as high as it is. The basic reason for enlisting, though, is usually economic rather than patriotic.

We see the need, therefore, to strengthen the GI Movement; to build alliances; and to support all acts of resistance by our brothers and sisters in the military. It is our purpose in doing this to stop future U.S. military adventures before they happen.

BUILD THE GI MOVEMENT!

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY!!

WINTER SOLDIER
is the official national publication of:

Vietnam Veterans Against the War
Winter Soldier Organization

It is published monthly by the National Collective
at

VVAW/WSO
827 W. Newport
Chicago, ILL 60657

Subscribers of LNS

Lawton-Gardner Trial

FRAME-UP CONTINUES

Zurebu Gardner

Gary Lawton

Facing charges of murdering two policemen, the second trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu (Larrie) Gardner is coming to a close. Hopefully, a clear-cut decision of innocent will be brought by this jury, rather than the 9-3 decision for acquittal delivered by the Indio trial jury.

The D.A. finished his closing statement on Oct. 8th with a blatant play on racism. Admitting that the state had no case, he opened with: "For the last three or four months, you've probably been wondering what's going on here." Then in a move to get the jury to disregard the evidence, he said: "How do you know the evidence is true; well, you just feel it." His time was spent either telling the jury to disregard the evidence (even some of his own) or describing in detail the shot-gun killing of the two policemen.

The D.A. (Porst) was attempting two things: first, to get the jury to identify with the two dead white officers; and second, to play upon their feelings about two black militant men. It should not be difficult to figure out which side the jury should identify with.

The defense was prepared to present its case on Oct. 10th, but delayed this action after receiving a letter from six inmates from Blith Detention Facility. The letter said that Cameron, a chief prosecution witness, had been bragging about getting $5,000, a new identity and a plane ticket to anywhere for falsifying his testimony for the police. After this letter was mailed, the six inmates were moved to the Riverside jail and taken from their cells at midnight by the Chief Prosecuting Investigator and interrogated until 5:00 a.m. Meanwhile, Judge Hews is still hearing statements by defense and prosecution lawyers as to whether or not the defense can reopen its case and present the new evidence regarding bribery of witnesses.

One thing is clear. The state will use any means to silence people who speak out against racism, repression and the war. Bribing and intimidating witnesses is nothing new; nor is the railroading of innocent black organizers. We have the duty to support these brothers (Gary is a member of VVAW/WSO) both in word and deed; both with our actions and our financial aid. The state has spent over $3,000,000 in its attempts to convict Gary and Zurebu. The defense has been utilizing Public Defenders and movement lawyers, yet is still over $5,000 in debt.

Even if Lawton is found completely innocent of this charge, the county (with special funding from State Attorney General Younger) is going to try Gary on a charge of "shooting a shot-gun in an occupied dwelling in 1968." Both Gary and Zurebu are free now, but they have spent over two years in jail, during which time they lost their jobs and savings. Send the desperately needed funds (both for the past trial debt and the upcoming defense expenses) to: The Riverside Defense Committee, P.O. Box 5154, San Bernardino, Calif. 92412.

ONE IS NOT FREE UNTIL ALL ARE FREE, SAY ON!

-- Gary Lawton

A Background Perspective

BLOODBATH IN CHILE

As the smoke gradually clears from the Sept. 11th coup in Chile, the direct involvement of the U.S. government has become increasingly obvious. No matter how loudly the State Dept. screams about how they had nothing to do with the coup, even the casual observer is able to note the stamp "Made in U.S.A." on the face of the junta now in power.

The reasoning behind the U.S. decision to topple the Allende government was obvious. With some $1 billion in U.S. investments in Chile threatened with Allende's program of socialization and nationalization, investments that had earned a profit ten times the initial value, the U.S. clearly had a lot to lose financially.

The U.S. knew Allende inherited the largest per-capita foreign debt in the world when he took office. Thus, it proceeded to see that Chile could not get any credit to remedy the situation. The industrial world lives on credit, with debts or raw materials and machinery paid for with the income of the products they produce. The U.S. also forced private banks to cut back 85% of the aid they were then giving Chile. As a result of this, Chile's short term credit floats fell from $220 million to $35 million in 1971-72 alone. The U.S., in conjunction with the two largest U.S. investors in Chile, (Anaconda Copper and Kennecott Copper) forced the world price of copper down by 20%. As Chile's primary source of income is copper, this was disastrous. There is no mystery as to why companies like Kennecott wanted to get back "their" copper mines in Chile so badly. In one year alone, 1969, Kennecott made an incredible 205% profit on its total investment in Chile!

There is no disputing the fact that when Allende took over, the economy was an absolute mess. But the economic chaos of Chile's last two years came from the combined assault of U.S. business, the CIA and their middlemen in the Chilean elite. They did all they could to sabotage economic stability. In rural areas crops were burned and fields left unseeded, cattle were slaughtered or shipped to Argentina. The Chilean rich tried to starve poor Chileans into dislike of the Allende government. Then, for perhaps the first time in modern history, the owners of society went on strike against the workers. Merchants, business men, professionals, owners of small trucking companies, all repeatedly shut down in an attempt to topple the government.

ITT is a classic example of the sabotage directed at Allende's government. In a 1970 memo to the CIA, ITT offered $1 million to see that Allende never assumed office. With $200 million invested in Chile, ITT certainly had a lot to lose with nationalization. ITT wrote to Washington that a "realistic hope among those who want to block Allende is that the swiftly deteriorating economy will touch off a wave of violence resulting in a military coup."

On various occasions in the past 20 years, the U.S. has employed "coup teams" as one of its main weapons in combating strong anti-imperialist governments. These teams are composed of CIA operatives with expertise in overthrowing governments. Coup teams were employed in overthrowing the governments of Iran in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, the Congo in 1961, South Vietnam in 1963, Brazil in 1964, Indonesia in 1965, Bolivia in 1971, and Uruguay in 1973. As Jack Anderson revealed in March of 1972, Nathan Davis (the Ambassador to Chile and Chile's former "Peace Corps" director) sent a memo to the White House proposing a plot designed to "create discontent so great that military intervention is overwhelmingly invited." Clearly the coup team of at least 10 clearly identified CIA agents in Chile did just that. The names of the faceless little men that produced the debacle in Chile, crop up in similar situations of political intrigue and right wing coups with the grim regularity of a smallpox epidemic. It was not coincidence that Ambassador Davis flew to the White House for consultation four days before the coup. Nor was it a coincidence that four U.S. Navy ships were steaming into Valpariso harbor the very day the coup began.

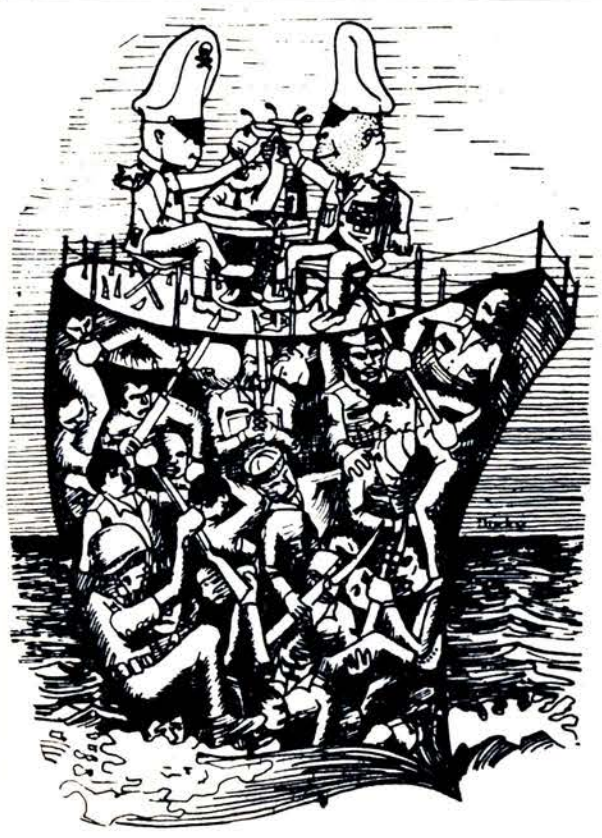
Chile is the perfect example of the new Nixon-Kissinger "low profile" strategy. Vietnam taught them that they must find new, "cleaner" ways of intervening in the affairs of other countries. Open armed force would only have the same negative results it did in Vietnam. In the case of Chile, however, we can see where an arms-length strangulation of the Chilean economy, coupled with the precision maneuvering of the CIA worked very successfully. This low profile strategy against underdeveloped countries trying to liberate themselves from the clutches of imperialism imposes an invisible economic blockade on them. Allende had said of this: "We are having to face forces that operate in the half-light, that fight with powerful weapons, but that fly no identifying flag and are entrenched in the most varied centers of influence...." These "legitimate" maneuverings are a new and subtle form of warfare that capitalizes on underdeveloped countries' need to pay off their past debts

(continued on page 13)

GIs CONTINUE

Nobody Wants It !!

Homeporting in Japan



(The following is excerpted from a long letter sent by the GIs, GI families, and U.S. and Japanese civilians of the New People's Center in Yokosuka, Japan, a GI project. The letter describes some of the effects and reactions to the Navy's decision to homeport the USS MIDWAY in Yokosuka, effective for three years starting this month.)

Most people stationed or homeported here now are against the homeporting. The military has not substantially increased facilities even though the service population will jump from about 6500 to about 11,000. Yokosuka is already regarded as one of the worst places to be stationed in the Far East. Sailors involved in the VVAW/WSO chapter are working to build solidarity with the Japanese people op posed to homeporting. They wrote a letter to Yokosuka citizens explaning why they and other servicepeople are opposed to homeporting.

The Navy is taking its usual line. It claims that the demonstrators (such as the 20,000 people who staged a huge demonstration when the MIDWAY sailed into Yokosuka on October 5th) are paid agitators who will attack enlisted people and their families if given the chance. They do not allow entrance or exit to or from the base for even the smallest demonstration, and they have Japanese riot police and a Marine detachment guarding all entrances. But we are working to dis pel these rumors and have regular Sunday night dinners with both servicepeople and Japanese people.

There has been an anti-homeporting movement on the MIDWAY since last spring. Sailors circulated a petition among crew members and their families, addressed to Congress. It protested U.S. military expansion, lack of facilities for servicepeople in Yokosuka, and the lack of civil rights in the military. They collected over 200 signatures in 2 days before the captain told them to stop. They also held an Armed Farces Day picnic in May and had a slide showing about Yokosuka and homeporting. The captain tried to quell the dissent by holding a barbecue on the flight deck. He also proposed an open discussion about homeporting, which backfired when 200 Black sailors stood up together and asked questions about Navy racism and about the homeporting! Many white sailors joined them in grilling the captain about U.S. military expansion and oppression of lower-ranking enlisted people. The captain then gave up and started looking for "volunteers" for the MIDWAY. Then he said that all but 400 of the crew had "volunteered"; but as it turned out, many sailors had been misled by tricky forms, and many others had been "volunteered" out of boot camp and didn't even know where they were going!

The day the MIDWAY sailed from California, current and former MIDWAY sailors sent a message of solidarity to the Japanese people.

"We wish to express our support of the rights of the people of Japan and all of Asia to determine their own future and to be spared massive U.S. military presence. (The Navy's claims of an all-volunteer crew)...does nothing to change the conditions and policies that the MIDWAY sailors are resisting and are oppressed by in the homeporting of the MIDWAY. As this becomes clear to the 'volunteer' lower EMs, we think they too will turn against homeporting and join with Japanese friends to fight homeporting in Yokosuka."

There is strong opposition to homeporting among Japanese labor unions, especially in Yokosuka. The Yokosuka baseworkers' union held a work stoppage in the spring and has taken a position against homeporting. The Navy is laying off many of the union workers and is subcontracting much of the work on base to a giant Japanese company, Sumitomo. This means that the new workers are forced to work for lower wages and many of the benefits the workers had struggled for will be eliminated. This saves the Navy money and creates profits for Sumitomo. Many of the baseworkers are in their 40s or 50s and can't work for the subcontractor. This also means that workers who would be eligible for Navy retirement in a few years lose their eligibility. So American baseworkers who are being laid off should realize that it isn't Japanese workers who are the problem, because many of them are in the same position.

The coalition of Japanese unions and leftists that has been working against homeporting is learning more about the sailors' role in the struggle. In the past, one of their slogans was YANKEE GO HOME; they did not differentiate between enlisted people and policy makers. But they are beginning to realize that there are classes within the military and that there is a GI Movement. Individuals within the group are more progressive and we work together some; we work with all progressive groups against homeporting.

Anti-War P.O.W.s FREED

After months of harassment and brutality directed at them by the Pentagon, the four enlisted POWs who were charged with mutiny as a result of their actions in a North Vietnamese POW camp have been cleared of all charges by the Department of Defense. "Lack of evidence" was cited by the DoD as the reason for dropping the charges.

This victory has come at a very high cost. Eight men originally were charged with collaboration and other "crimes" because of their anti-war activities in the camp. Two officers were also charged, but charges against them were dropped in September. Of the eight GIs, one of them, Sgt. Larry Kavanugh, was driven to suicide by the intense harassment and baiting directed at him by the high brass in the Pentagon.

Of the others, three were discharged and no military charges could be

THE STRUGGLE

placed against them. But the four remaining GIs--Army Staff Sgt. James Daly, Army Staff Sgt. John Young, Marine Staff Sgt. Alfonso Riate, and Marine Pvt. Frederick Elbert--saw their charges dropped after Kavanaugh's suicide and then were charged <u>again</u> by a different officer. It has been several months and it was not until early October that the Pentagon high powers decided they didn't have a case.

These brothers tried to end the war in the same way that thousands of other GIs tried to; the only difference was that they were in a POW camp, under the watchful eyes of captive U.S. officers. The brass tried to destroy these men--and, in the case of Larry Kavanaugh, they succeeded--in an effort to discredit the major role that U.S. GIs played in bringing the direct U.S. combat role in Vietnam to an end. But the brothers have won their fight now. A number of them have been active in the amnesty and GI Movements, and several of them have done extensive speaking about the war and about amnesty. Now they will be able to do so without the brass muttering "mutiny!" in the background.

News From the

USS AMERICA

(This is a press release sent by the AMERIKA INFORMATION COALITION, an organization of sailors presently assigned to the USS AMERICA, one of the Navy's largest aircraft carriers.)

"The AMERIKA has been plagued by a particularly high rate of UAs (unauthorized absence). This can be attributed to the never-ending harassment which the enlisteds (especially in the lower pay grades) have been subjected to!

"The situation is extremely serious in the two divisions directly involved in the operations of the main propulsion plant. These two divisions have been expected to stand "24 and carry on" (24-hour duty) to correct mistakes made by others while the AMERIKA was in the yards. There have been several instances of enlisteds protesting the unsafe working conditions in the machinery rooms. While the rest of the ship is in 6-section duty, two other divisions are being punished and are in 3-section duty. There have been several instances of sabotage and it will continue. Personnel are leaving en masse to protest the situation that exists on the AMERIKA!

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

G.I.S PROTEST MIDEAST U.S. INVOLVEMENT

On October 13, as evidence continued to mount that the U.S. was willing to commit U.S. troops to the war in the Middle East, a group of GIs and civilians from four East Coast military bases staged a protest in Jacksonville, N.C., the base town for Camp Lejeune, the major Marine Corps base east of the Mississippi.

About 15 GIs from Fort Bragg, N.C.; Charleston Naval Base, S.C.; Camp Lejeune; and Norfolk Navy bases, Virginia joined 10 civilians in circulating a petition against U.S. involvement in the Mideast conflict. The petition was passed around at 3 shopping centers in the Jacksonville area, and in one day's leafletting about 200 signatures were gathered.

The petition read:
"To Senator William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:
"Dear Sir,
"We, the undersigned citizens, soldiers, sailors, and Marines, urge you to immediately introduce legislation forbidding the introduction of U.S. forces into the current Mideast hostilities. We do not want this to become another senseless Vietnam."

In an attempt to keep the brothers from distributing the petition, the Jacksonville cops arrested three of the GIs for supposedly "protesting and soliciting" (this is a crime in Jacksonville???), and threw them in jail. They were hoping to turn them over to MPs for a check to see if they were AWOL, and by the time all that got finished, the brothers wouldn't be able to go out and leaflet. But the other protesters got them out of jail without any formal charges being placed.

The protest was sponsored jointly by the Defense Committees, GI-civilian organizations at Lejeune, Norfolk, and Charleston, and the GI Union at Bragg. On November 2, a delegation of active-duty GIs from all four bases will go to Washington, D.C., to present the signed petitions to Fulbright.

Is there a real threat of the U.S. sending troops into the war? Well, there's a lot of evidence that plans are being made to do just that if it looks like the Arab nations are going to win. In Norfolk, for example, where most supplies and ships that go to the Middle East are loaded and unloaded, a lot of weird things have happened. The entire 6th Fleet has had all leaves cancelled; this isn't too surprising. But a lot of other ships have left Norfolk for parts unknown. The carrier ROOSEVELT with two destroyers accompanying it, and the carrier INDEPENDENCE, with the LITTLE ROCK and two or three destroyers accompanying it, have headed for the Mediterranean; the INDEPENDENCE is now off the island of Crete near Greece. The ship GUADALCANAL, with the 2nd Marines, 6th Regiment aboard, is reported to be in the Mediterranean; and the helicopter transport IWO JIMA, with the 3rd Marines, 6th Regiment aboard, is leaving Norfolk on October 16 for the same area.

The U.S. runs on oil, and that's what the U.S. interest is in this war. The oil-producing nations are fighting Israel, and the U.S. is helping Israel in a big way---Sidewinder missiles, bombs, and other apparatus were loaded onto Israeli planes at Norfolk from October 9th on. The Arab people might withhold oil from the U.S.; and the Nixon government doesn't like that prospect. So there's a real possibility that the Marines might get sent in to make sure that the "right" side wins! Just like a few military advisers that got sent to a small Indochinese nation in 1954.....

Wizard of Id

A WAR RESISTER IS HOME

After five years in Sweden, a war resister is home. Dick Bucklin left the U.S. Army in 1968 and turned himself in for courts-martial at Ft. Carson, Colorado on October 4, 1973. The result of Dick's action will most likely cost him three years in the Ft. Leavenworth Disciplinary Barracks.

Bucklin, 28, grew up in a working class North Denver neighborhood and was drafted on his 22nd birthday December 15, 1967. He felt much the same way about the war in Vietnam as other young men of his time: "I've read somewhere that Johnson thought the country had gotten to where it's goals were fuzzy and he thought a little war would set it right. At that time I thought a little war might be what I needed, too."

But after basic training at Fort Bliss and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Huachuca, Bucklin realized that something was wrong with the military, the country, and the war. He was shipped to the 122nd Maintenance Battalion near Hanau, West Germany where he made the decision to go to Sweden "to deny the Army the use of my labor and body in support of the war."

"Not until I was in the Army did I really begin to understand what was happening both to me and the country. What could only be called a kind of corruption was best personified by the officers... These creatures would bomb anything, kill anybody, follow any order, and all for just money and medals and to be a winner."

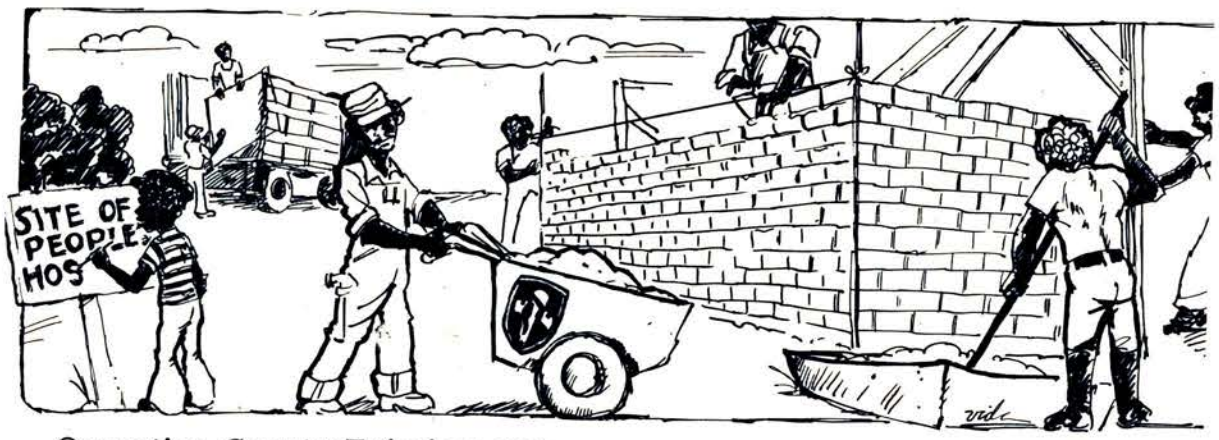
"During the AIT, I came to the final decision that the only way I could resist and make a positive statement was to leave and deny them the use of my body, my labor." While on leave in Copenhagen, two months after reaching his station in Germany, Bucklin left for Sweden.

The issue of unconditional amnesty for all war resisters is growing across the country. Dick Bucklin has decided to leave the sanctuary in Sweden and voluntarily submit to court martial in order to make amnesty more than an issue, to make amnesty a reality.

A Defense Committee has already been established in Denver with the aid of VVAW/WSO, the Rocky Mountain Military Project, and the National Lawyers Guild. And the Defense Committee needs help. VVAW/WSO needs to make the Bucklin case a nationally known and talked about issue; we need to put our energies into making amnesty an organizing program in every locality. Contributions of time, and of course money are desperately needed now by the Defense Committee. For further information, contact: Colorado VVAW/WSO, P.O. Box 18591, Denver, Co. 80203. (303) 534-6285.

Serve the People · Build the Clinic

OPERATION: COUNTY FAIR



Operation County Fair is a national project of VVAW/WSO. The purpose of OCF is to provide the rural community of Bogue Chitto, Alabama with adequate medical care and a clinic to provide this help. Why Bogue Chitto? VVAW/WSO has been asked by the black community there to help because they need medical facilities -- something that the predominently white city of Selma has not provided. White doctors in Alabama will not touch their black patients and even have separate examination rooms for black people.

In March of this year the clinic was officially incorporated in the state of Alabama under the name Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Clinic. The purposes of the clinic are to provide medical, dental, psychological, legal, social and related services to anyone requesting them. It is a free clinic and no one is excluded because of inability to pay. No one is excluded because of race, religion, sex, age or national origin and the services will not be segregated.

There are currently two full-time nurses in Bogue Chitto, both members of VVAW/WSO. They are engaged in teaching medical skills to community people so that the community will be able to provide its own medical care. One of the nurses is currently traveling across the country to visit other medical clinics to see how best to set up the Bogue Chitto clinic. She has already visited two clinics in New Mexico.

The needs of the clinic are great. It is no easy task to start a medical facility from scratch. One of the greatest needs of the clinic is the desire to have a full or part-time doctor living and working at the clinic. Baring the possibility of this, any doctors that are willing to give telephone consultations with the clinic staff should be sought out. Besides medicine, the clinic needs office equipment, towels, soap, health/education literature, school books, sterile water, fetus scopes, equipment for delivering babies, anti-hypertensives, tools (picks, saws, hammers, etc.), and clothing.

The single greatest need is money. Considering the location of the clinic, it is not likely that the black community in Alabama can provide sufficient funds since the majority live well below the poverty level. Any individuals that can spare a few dollars (or something more substantial) should send it directly to the clinic address listed below.

Health care is a right and should be provided from birth, free of cost. Medical services should be de-professionalized and de-mystified. By supporting Operation County Fair, we are combating racism in America and are bringing people of all backgrounds together. Help us build the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Clinic. Contributions should be sent to: Linda Regnier, RR1, Box 85, Browns, Alabama 37624. Further information about the clinic and OCF may be obtained from the National VVAW/WSO office in Chicago.

MEDICINE FOR THE PEOPLE

ONE DISCHARGE FOR ALL

A recent veteran of Vietnam applied for a job at a brokerage firm on Wall Street. Since he was a veteran, the company asked to see his DD-214 form, a form given to all vets on their discharge from the military. After they took a look at his form, he was turned down for the job.

This man had enlisted in the Army, served three years, and had been given an honorable discharge. On the DD-214, however, were the code letters "SPN" (or Separation Program Number Designator) followed by a number. That number (there are 530 possibilities) is also given to every service man or woman as they leave the military. And since this vet's number was a code for "Apathy," he didn't get the job.

SPN codes are just part of the larger classification of veterans that are comparable to the "passbooks" blacks in South Africa are legally required to carry wherever they go. The codes affect whether a veteran can get money (loans) to go to school, medical care for wounds received in war, or a job. The SPN numbers can be both good and bad. There's one discharge "to accept employment with a legal, established law enforcement agency" or "early release for Christmas" or to "attend school." But then there are the ones like "unsatisfactory handling of personal affairs" or "unfitness -- unsanitary habits" or "sexual deviate (aberrant tendencies)" or "for the good of the service" or "habitual shirker" or "best interests of the Air Force."

One vet who was given a general discharge under honorable conditions (meaning he was still eligible for VA benefits) received a number which meant a discharge for "disloyal or subversive security program." He had gotten a lot of anti-war literature in the mail while he was in the Army. When he tried to get a job at Con Edison, the electrical company turned him down after seeing his DD-214.

So many Puerto Ricans from the island have been discharged early because they can't speak English and have been given bad discharges that there's a code number meaning "early release of Puerto Rican personnel who failed to qualify for training." Since most Puerto Ricans are drafted, it is doubly malicious since now they are marked for life. The racism of the discharge system can clearly be seen when comparing the percentage of Third World people in a service to the number of bad discharges that they receive. In the Air Force, for example, only 12% of the enlistees in 1972 were black, yet they accounted for 30% of the Undesirable Discharges.

There are five classifications for discharge from the military. Honorable and the four less-than-honorable categories -- general, undesireable, bad conduct and dishonorable. Anyone who gets an undesireable discharge or below is not eligible for any veterans' benefits. This means your old boss doesn't have to give you back your job, you are not eligible for any kind of civil service job and you can't get money for school, medical care, etc.

The people hit hardest are those who have not gone along with the military's way of life. Third World GIs who have resisted racism in the military or who have merely been in conflict with their sergeant have gotten an inordinate number of less-than-honorable discharges. Political activists who have worked for even the slightest change in military structure or against the war are also prime candidates for less-than-honorable discharges as well as drug users (who largely began taking drugs while in the military) and homosexuals.

One GI was shot up in Vietnam and shipped from there to Alaska. He then received orders to return to Vietnam but refused to put on his uniform to go back. He was then thrown in his underwear into a freezing cold basement. After his courtmartial, he was finally given a bad discharge. Because of that, he can get no veterans' benefits to pay for the huge hospital bills incurred from operations to remove some of the shrapnel fragments he got in Vietnam.

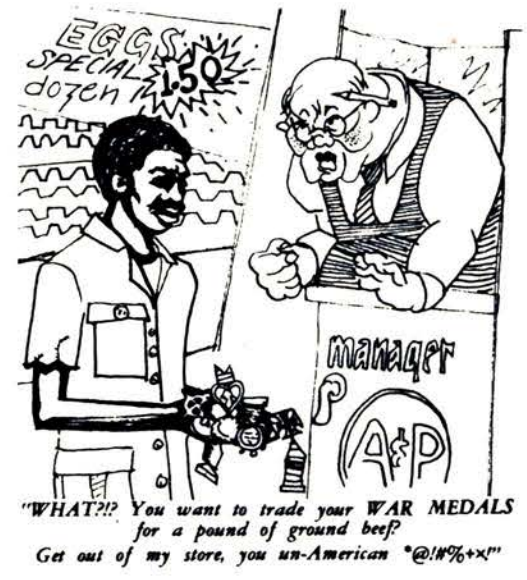
General and undesireable discharges are considered administrative, that is, they are up to the sole discretion of the commanding officer. What that means in practice is that usually the one who decides what kind of discharge a GI will get is the immediate commanding officer, sometimes even the first sergeant. Over 93% of all less-than-honorable discharges fall under this administrative category. The military prefers to give administrative discharges as it costs them anywhere from $5,000 to $15,000 to put on a courtmartial trial. In fact, most GIs are threatened with a heavy courtmartial trial to force them to accept an administrative discharge.

The line that is given to the GI is that after a certain period of time, the bad discharge will automatically be upgraded. The truth is that NO discharges are automatically upgraded.

You can ask for a hearing at an Administrative Discharge Board to fight the discharge classification, but the chances of changing your discharge are very slim since the board consists of at least three commissioned officers. The person appearing before the board has no rights to present evidence, subpoena witnesses, cross-examine witnesses or to be legally represented. And applications for review usually take from 1 - 1 1/2 years before they come up before the board. Last year, only 15% of those who applied for upgrading had their discharges upgraded.

Since there are over 500,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges, the only solution that is just is to grant these veterans amnesty and to then change the military discharge system. VVAW/WSO believes that there should be only one type of discharge issued, stating simply that one has been in the armed forces. All criminal matters should be handled by civilian courts. To achieve this goal, VVAW/WSO is working with the Discharge Upgrading Project in San Francisco to overload the reviewing process in Washington, D.C., thus paving the way to a class-action suit against all less-than-honorable discharges.

For more information about discharges, write the Discharge Upgrading Project, P.O. Box 151, San Francisco, Calif. 94103.



*"WHAT?!? You want to trade your WAR MEDALS for a pound of ground beef? Get out of my store, you un-American *@!#%+×!"*

(Thanks to LNS for the meat of this article).

IMPLEMENT THE TREATY

FREE SAIGON'S PO

During the week of October 1-8, VVAW/WSO participated in "Indochina Solidarity Week" throughout the country. This national action was called to bring home the fact that the war in Indochina is not yet over, that the peace treaty has not been implemented, that the Thieu regime is imprisoning 200,000 political prisoners, and the CIA is paying U.S. mercenaries $2,400 a week to fight in Cambodia. The demands of the actions called for a complete cessation of U.S. involvement in Indochina and the withdrawal of support for Thieu and Lon Nol. The week of actions was a great success. VVAW/WSO chapters in New York, Texas, Colorado, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Florida, New Mexico, Illinois, California, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. filled their week with postering, leafletting, speaking engagements, media presentations, guerilla theater and demonstrations. From the responses received, VVAW/WSO went a little further in exhibiting to the American people that the war in Indochina is not over and it is the responsibility of the people of this country to ensure that peace becomes reality.

In order for there to be a lasting peace in Vietnam, it is imperative that all parties adhere to the articles of the Agreement on Ending the War which was signed in January of this year. However, there is one article of this agreement which Thieu has continually refused to abide by, and his failure to do so is one of the major obstacles to achieving peace. Article 11 of the January agreement says: "Immediately after the ceasefire, the two south Vietnamese parties will... Ensure the democratic liberties of the people: personal freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of meeting, freedom of organization, freedom of political activities, freedom of belief...." Because of Thieu's refusal to participate in ensuring these freedoms, the Joint Communique on Vietnam of June 13, 1973 stressed the requirement that Thieu free the remaining POWs of the PRG and all political prisoners. As with the Paris agreement, Thieu has also ignored this demand of the Joint Communique and continued to operate his government of military dictatorship as a repressive and cruel police state, where the arrest of innocent people and torture of prisoners has become a standard policy.

It is difficult to determine the exact number of political prisoners now being held by the Thieu government. In his "White Paper on Political Prisoners," Deputy Ho Ngoc Nhuan of the Saigon Lower House stated: "For various reasons, we cannot ascertain the exact number of political prisoners. There are countless official and unofficial, public and secret agencies for repressing and arresting people. There are public and secret prisons and detention camps." However, Ho goes on to say that it may be speculated that there are over 200,000 political prisoners now imprisoned by the Thieu regime. This figure is partially based on the fact that since April, 1972, an average of 14,000 civilians are arrested each month.

Those people imprisoned by the Saigon government come from a variety of sectors of Vietnamese society. Thieu has referred to those who disagree in any form with his regime as "communists." The regime has also given itself the authority to arrest, eliminate, torture or "shoot to kill" any person considered to be a "communist." But in fact, the majority of people arrested are not members of any political party, but are considered to be "neutralists." The neutralists are the "Third Force" in South Vietnam and Thieu has grown increasingly afraid of this force because they are to be included in the "three party" combination which is to compose the South Vietnamese government as set forth in the January Agreement. The neutralist force is largely made up of lawyers, professors, students, intellectuals and religious leaders and these are the people that have recently begun to appear in the prisons.

In South Vietnam, a person may be arrested at any time or place
rest are many and unique
be searched, seized, jai
any of the following reas
all six pieces of identific
search, refusal to fly or
a vague accusation from
onymous letter of accusa
"suspicious attitude," re
to the police, having a r
NLF, living in an area "
activities," etc. As if th
enough, shortly before th
was signed, Thieu enacte
which says: "Those pers
ous to the national defens
may be interned in a pris
for a maximum of two ye
able." What this particu
to mean is that people m
out having specific charg
them and without being b

Once imprisoned, t
is in serious jeopardy be
spread torture that is em
Thieu's prison system.
tain information about Th
force innocent persons to
ing to eye-witness and fi
most common methods of
ing by billy clubs on all p
body. This does not leav
serious internal damage.
Trip - Tying a prisoner t
drainage water, soap wat
down the throat until the
like a balloon. Then the
the stomach to make the
the sensation of drowning
Cigarettes - The prisone
then burnt with cigarettes
the body. 4. Airplane tri
bound and pulled up by a
The prisoner is swung wh
on the victim. When the

SOUTH VIET NAM'S NATIONAL POLICE ARRESTING ANTI-THIEU STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS IN SAIGON

OLITICAL PRISONERS

lace and the reasons for ar-
unique. An individual may
d, jailed and tortured for
reasons: failure to have
ntification at the time of
ly or salute the Saigon flag,
from an individual, an an-
ccusation, possessing a
," refusing to give bribes
g a relative with the PRG or
rea "suspected of Viet Cong
s if these reasons weren't
ore the Peace Agreement
enacted Decree No. 004/66,
persons considered danger-
lefense and public safety
a prison or designated area
wo years, which is renew-
rticular decree has come
le may be imprisoned with-
charges brought against
ing brought to trial.

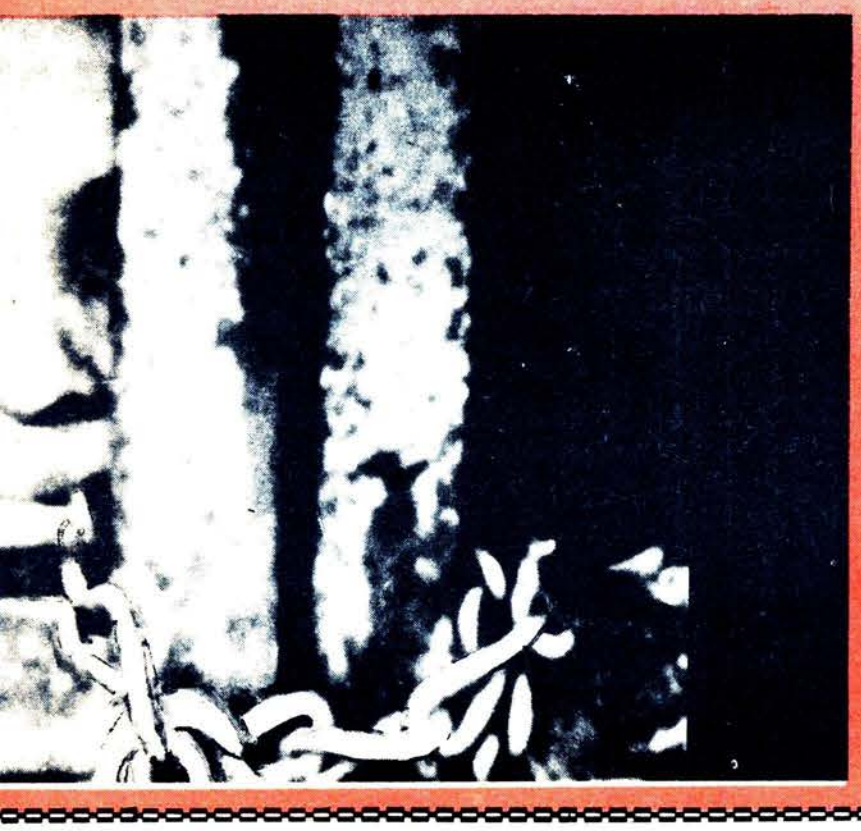
ed, the life of the prisoner
dy because of the wide-
is employed throughout
em. Torture is used to ob-
ut Thieu's "enemies" and to
ns to admit guilt. Accord-
nd first-hand reports, the
ds of torture are: 1. Beat-
all parts of the prisoner's
leave scars but causes
nage. 2. The Submarine
ner to a bench and pouring
p water or latrine water
the stomach is pumped up
the interrogators jump on
the prisoner vomit, giving
wning. 3. Smoking Salem
soner is tied to a bench and
rettes on sensitive parts of
ne trip - The prisoner is
by a rope through a trolley.
ng while interrogators beat
the prisoner faints, he/she is lowered into a bucket of water to regain consciousness and then the procedure is repeated. 5. Electric Shock Treatment - This method causes severe nervous sickness and often the prisoner suffers from "seizures" for the rest of his/her life.

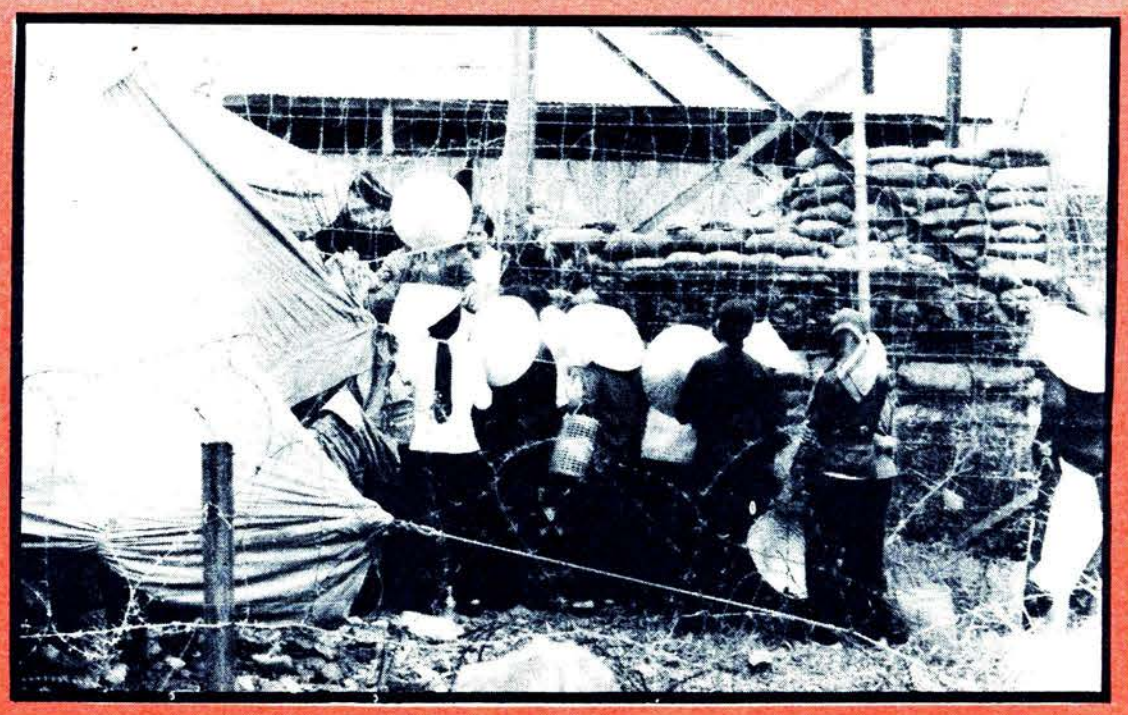
The brain center behind the majority of arrests and torture is the National Police Headquarters in Saigon. Coincidentally, the director of the NPH was also the Secretary-General of the Phoenix Program (a joint effort on the part of the CIA and Saigon government to eliminate "enemy civilians.") The scope of the NPH is huge. Including the number of undercover police and civilian personnel authorized to make arrests, the NPH is composed of nearly 300,000 police officials.

It is not difficult to understand the broad scale of repression that Thieu's police state has reached when considering the fact that all operations are almost completely financed by the U.S. government. The American tax-payers are providing 90% of Thieu's annual budget, and during this year alone, $20.4 million has been channeled into the organization of the Saigon prison system. U.S. money is paying for materials and services for the prisons, including the payment of salaries for U.S. Public Safety Advisors who are on loan to Vietnam from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons. The function of these "advisors" is to maintain security, supervise construction of new prisons, and conduct training sessions. Not only is the U.S. financing the personnel for the prisons, but they are financing the prisons themselves. Many of the prisons have been constructed by U.S. corporations, including the $400,000 contract to Raymond, Morrison, Knutson/Brown, Root, Jones for the production of "tiger cages" for Con Son Island. (This contract was awarded after members of Congress visiting Vietnam discovered the cages and denounced them for being deplorable and over-crowded). RMK/BRJ has filled its contract, and production is now being handled by the U.S. AID (Agency for International Development). Not only is the AID providing materials, it is also training Vietnamese personnel to carry out its work. This year, 264 police from Saigon will receive training in the United States. They will be trained in riot-control, use of tear-gas and explosives, and methods of torture. With this wide extent of involvement on the part of the U.S. in Thieu's imprisoning and torturing of political prisoners, it is not difficult to understand why Nixon has not pressured Thieu into abiding by the demands of the Peace Agreement. That pressure will have to come from the American people themselves, because we are the ones footing the bill for Saigon's operations. It is the responsibility of the people of this country to force the administration into ending its support and aid of Thieu. Only by doing this will Saigon's political prisoners be freed and a peace in Vietnam recognized.

President Thieu is about the business of silencing anyone who opposes his regime. If silencing means permanent crippling or death, then so be it. What Thieu does not seem to understand, however, is that his repressive tactics have not broken the spirit of the Vietnamese people who are struggling for a free and independent nation. Throughout Thieu's prisons, songs of freedom are being scrawled on walls. As the Association of Vietnamese Women has said:

Because they love freedom and independence,
peace and justice,
Because they refuse to send their children into
the ranks of an army under the command
of a foreign country,
to fight against their brothers
They were imprisoned.
But who could put into a cage conscience, chain
the wings of thought?
In spite of tears and wounds, blood and tortures
Their poems keep blooming on the prison walls
Born behind bars, their songs fly away into the
world
and bring us this faithful message:
Love, Hope, Determination, Courage.





People attempting to pass food over barbed wire to their relatives or friends who are prisoners in Quang Ngai Interrogation Center.

AMNESTY FOR KARL!

On September 28, Karl Armstrong pleaded guilty to second degree murder and four counts of arson, in connection with the bombing of the Army Math Research Center. This bombing on August 24, 1970 was the result of a series of demonstrations and anti-war activities on the University of Wisconsin campus. One researcher was killed by the blast, after the campus police had been warned beforehand that the explosion would occur. The Math Center was responsible for developing, among others, 'people sniffers' used in Vietnam.

Karl's plea of guilty comes one and a half years after he was arrested in Canada and six months after he was extradicted to the United States and charged with these crimes. The purpose of the guilty plea was to insure that the reasons for Karl's resistance to the War in Indochina would not be hampered with at the sentencing hearings which began on October 15th.

At these hearings, with no prosecution objections, the war in Indochina and the resistance to the war were put on trial. It was Armstrong's contention that the destruction of the Math Center was justified as research work being done there led directly to the continuation of the death and destruction in Indochina.

The hearings, in addition to making the point that the war justified resistance to it, in whatever manner was deemed necessary, also brought to public attention the fact that thousands of Americans, including 580,000 veterans with less than honorable discharges are, as is Karl, being unjustly penalized for their resistance to the Indochina War.

The probable result of the hearings will be that Karl will be sentenced to 25 years for his resistance to the war and being blamed for the death of one researcher.

But the hearings have shown that the bombing of the Math Center was part of an overall movement in the United States in opposition to the Indochina War and that the crimes committed by the American government were resisted by millions of Americans. The focus of the hearings then revolved around these two points: the illegal war in Indochina, and the necessity for granting amnesty for all war resisters in opposition to it.

Karl Armstrong would rather face 25 years in jail than to have these facts ignored in a courtroom circus atmosphere if he had pleaded 'not guilty'. This act of Karl's for the anti-war, pro-amnesty forces in the United States deserves the attention of all the American people who were opposed to the criminal policies of the U.S. government in Indochina, and the attention of all those who favor a universal, unconditional amnesty for all U.S. war resisters.

When Karl pleaded guilty he made the following remarks; "The acts with which I have been credited were undertaken with the purpose of crippling the efforts of the American government to wage an illegal criminal and aggressive war against the Indochinese peoples, to prevent the further loss of life, devastation, and suffering. I have acted out of a feeling of moral responsibility and felt for me, not to have taken concrete action against this war would have been criminally irresponsible. These actions were intended as an affirmation of life."

NEWS BRIEFS

LON NOL REGIME WANTS MORE AMMUNITION FOR PUPPET ARMY

The puppet troops of Lon Nol are using approximately $500,000 worth of ammunition daily. The regime is asking the United States for a substantial increase in the amount of military aid being provided to bolster their shabby army. This year the U.S. government is pledged to provide $167 million for military aid and now the administration is asking for a supplemental $150 million in aid for Cambodia. This would bring the total to $317 million in order to continue the war in Cambodia.

TWO AMERICAN SCIENTISTS TOUR QUANG TRI PROVINCE, VIETNAM

Arthur H. Westing and E. W. Pfeiffer toured Quang Tri Province and reported the following: "I was unprepared for the utter devastation that confronted us wherever we turned. Never were we out of sight of an endless panorama of crater fields. As far as we could determine not a single permanent building, urban or rural, remained intact: no private dwellings, no schools, no libraries, no churches or pagodas, and no hospitals. Moreover, every last bridge and even culvert had been bombed to bits. We left Quang Tri Province aghast at the realization that the strategy employed here by the U.S. was one of systematic aerial destruction of a region inhabited by tens of thousands of civilians. We also left with a renewed faith in the ability of these same Vietnamese eventually to overcome even this overwhelming insult to themselves and their land."

PATHET LAO TROOPS ARRIVE IN VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG

As part of the agreement signed on September 14, the Pathet Lao is sending in troops, policemen and officials to the two Laotian capitals, Vientiane and Luang Prabang. The government in Vientiane has provided a marshy area with no buildings or facilities for the Pathet Lao troops. The area is largely under water and is accessible only by a rutted, muddy ox-cart track.

GUINEA-BISSAU DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau was declared an independent and sovereign state by PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) on Sept. 24, 1973. The National Assembly adopted a constitution and elected a new President, Luis Cabral, brother of the late Amilcar Cabral. (see April, WS)

Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Winter Soldier Organization

Objectives

1. To demand an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We cannot allow one more human being to be killed in Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the People of Southeast Asia or such future plans as they develop based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.

2. To demand the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States Government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. This includes the maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination, and the theft of the natural resources of other countries. The United States should make reparations in a program acceptable to the Indochinese for all of the damage done by the United States.

3. To demand that all active-duty servicemen and women, reservists and national guardsmen be afforded the same rights that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights that are presently denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are appalled that our active-duty GIs are treated as less than first class citizens. We endorse the efforts of our active-duty sisters and brothers in their struggle to democratize the military.

4. To support all military personnel refusing to serve against their consciences in wars at home and abroad. We demand that Congress enact legislation for the immediate repatriation of those brothers and sisters who are in prison or in self-exile by reason of their refusal to serve in the military. It must also involve an end to all repression and a freeing of all political prisoners.

5. To demand there be no distinctions as to types of discharges and that a single type of discharge be issued, and that this be retroactive. We also demand all veterans receive all rights and benefits under the VA; and that compensation for disabilities be based solely upon the degree of disability for veterans and their families, without regard to sex, race, rank or length of service.

6. To make clear that the United States has never undertaken an extensive, open investigation of American war crimes in Indochina. In its war in Indochina, the principles of Nuremberg have been violated. As active-duty and former GIs, we recognize the responsibility and guilt of the individual soldier to refrain from committing war crimes. We also recognize that the responsibility and guilt of war crimes committed in the name of America lies with our policy makers at all levels.

7. Resolved to fight racism, to show Americans that our society is permeated by racism, which manipulates whites into viewing non-whites as inferior or less than human. This racism pushes Third World People through inferior schools to inferior jobs and into combat arms. Thus Third World People are sent off to die in disproportionately high numbers as we kill Asians indiscriminately. We also demand the US military recognize its complicity in America's domestic and international racism.

8. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling, lower paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of moraiity wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.

9. To support the democratic right of Americans to unionize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We consider all legislation designed to suppress these rights, including mandatory arbitration, to be illegal and not in the interests of the American working people. We also demand full employment for all Americans, including free educational and vocational training for all who need or want it. We refuse to participate in the efforts being made to separate us from other working people, making veterans enemies by giving us the charade of employment priority. We condemn this as a method of encouraging enlistment by the false promise of employment after service. We also condemn the use of active-duty GIs, Reservists and National Guardsmen as strikebreakers.

10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW/WSO is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.

Vietnam Veterans Against The War/ Winter Soldier Organization
827 W Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657, tel.(312)935-2129

_____ I would like to Join VVAW/WSO

_____ I am an active-duty GI

_____ I am currently in prison

_____ I am enclosing $____ to support your group

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

PULPWORKERS STRIKE

Southern Patriot photo

"I have talked to people up north when we made a trip up there, and actually, the way I see it, it's the same. The same man is controlling them people there that's controlling us down here. The same man. He's the money man. And he has got the government with him, he's got the state, he's got the county, he's got it all."

Fred Walters, Predident GPA

On Sept. 7th, over 2,000 black and white woodcutters and haulers from Alabama and Mississippi went on strike against some of the nation's largest paper companies. The strike was called by the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA) after paper companies failed to agree to the demands made by GPA on Aug. 24th. Demands the woodcutters are making include an increase of $30 per cord for the wood they cut and haul; a standard way of measuring and paying for wood to prevent buyers from cheating them; accident insurance to partially protect them from the extremely hazardous work conditions; and recognition of the GPA as their bargaining agent.

The woodcutters of GPA struck these same companies-International, Gulfstate, Allied, Scott, St. Regis, and Masonite-in the fall of 1971. That 3 month strike built unity between black and white workers in the very heart of Ku Klux Klan territory. The woodcutters won an increase in the price they were paid for their wood in the '71 strike by refusing to allow the paper companies to divide black and white workers.

Life for the 250,000 pulpwood workers has been a hard one. Earning only a few thousand dollars a year, they live under a system similar to sharecropping. Since it takes a substantial investment to cut pulpwood, nearly all the woodcutters have to take out a loan from one of the wood dealers (the woodcutters sell to dealers rather than directly to the companies) for the necessary equipment: trucks, tires, parts, saws, etc. Then monthly loan payments are deducted from the woodcutter's paychecks for the wood they bring in. If a worker quits, the company can repossess the equipment and keep all the money paid on it as "rent." It amounts to a form of indentured servitude.

GPA President Walters (a woodcutter for over 35 years) explained how this system works. In 1964, he bought a truck with $3400 loaned to him by a paper company. For 8 years, they took deductions out of his paycheck, only to tell him in 1972 that he still owed them $1700. He told them to take his truck back rather than continue paying. "That happens to everybody, you never get it paid up. They don't let you pay it up."

The paper companies contend that the woodcutters are "independent contractors," not paid employees. On these grounds they sought an injunction against the strike on Sept. 25th. At these hearings a partial victory was won when the court ruled that they were in fact "employees" and not independent contractors. This gave the woodcutters a legal right to strike and effectively said that GPA was their legal representative.

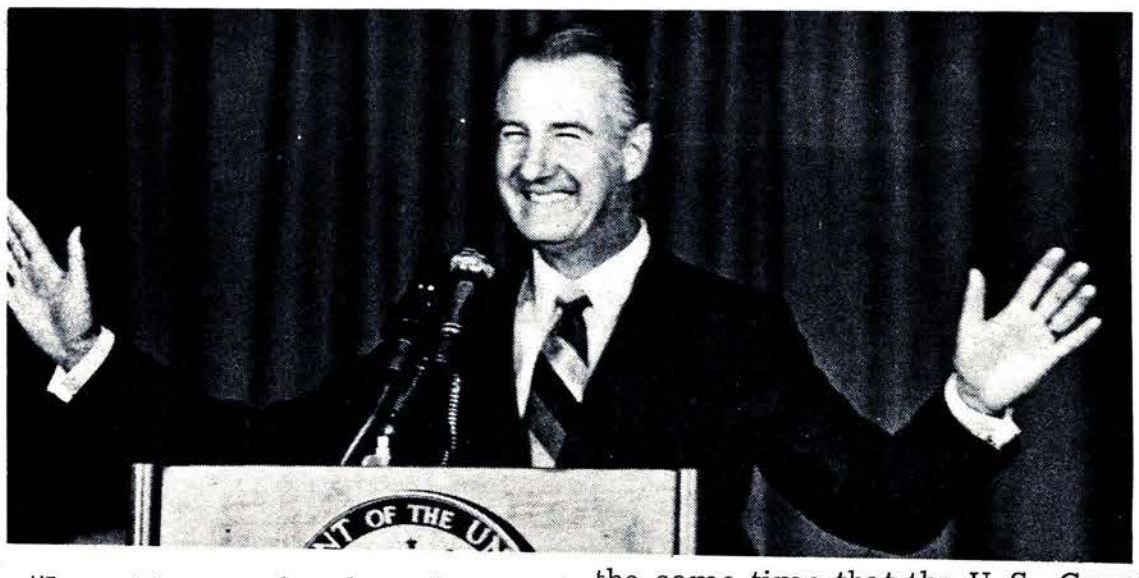
The paper companies introduced a system of weighing wood instead of measuring it by stick or in cords. As even a company official admitted during the hearings, the weight of a cord of wood might vary by several hundred pounds from one area to another. The GPA demands a return to the old system of measuring wood so that they can check the assuracy of measurment. Otherwise, the woodcutters are faced with being cheated by up to $15-$30 for every load of wood they sell. The companies also admitted that they "frequently financed" the wood dealers, confirming what GPA has maintained; the wood dealers are merely overseers for the paper companies.

The solidarity of the black and white woodcutters has been the key to their success in fighting the companies. By the 3rd day of the strike International Paper reported that the number of cords of wood they had received had dropped from a daily average of 1039 to 273. Scott and Allied recorded an 80% drop in their wood supply. Walters said of this: "Once these coloreds and these whites get together, man you better not mess with them... the paper companies have got something on their hands that they never had before... we tried to tell them, man this is not the same thing you've been dealing with, because we are all in this together, and we're doing this together." So far, GPA has organized some 19 counties in the Gulf Coast area and shortly expects ten more. As Walters said, this strike is clearly growing: "They will either have to deal with us or stop making paper. It's up to them!"

GPA is still a small organization with a meager strike fund. They need your help. Send food or money to help them eat and pay rent. Organize support to pressure offices of the paper companies to meet their demands. For information and donations, write: GPA, PO Box 53, Eastabuchie, Miss. 39436

Agnew Admits Guilt

'CROOK' RESIGNS



"I want to say clearly and unequivocally that I am innocent of the charges against me." - Spiro Agnew - September 29, 1973

"I admit that I did receive payments during the year 1967 which were not expended for political purposes and that therefore, these payments were income taxable to me in that year and that I so knew." -Spiro Agnew - October 10, 1973

With this, Spiro T. Agnew resigned as Vice President of the United States. The depths of his corruption extended to receiving more than $100,000 in cash payments from the time he was Governor of Maryland up until December of 1972, where he received payments in the Office of the Vice President. He was sentenced to three years probation and received a fine of $10,000; a light sentence in view of the serious charges against him.

For five years, Agnew - the loyal hatchetman for Richard Nixon traveled the length and width of the country attacking the press, supporting the criminal policies of the government, denouncing concerned Americans who protested those policies and screaming for law and order - turns out to be a liar, and a common criminal. His deceitful actions indicate a total disrespect for the American people; a disrespect that extends throughout all levels of the American political system.

President Nixon has named Gerald Ford of Michigan to succeed Agnew. The appointment of Ford to follow Agnew is another in a long line of Nixon nominations for high government positions in which those named have shady pasts. It was reported in the Chicago Tribune that in February of 1971, Ford failed to report $11,500 in campaign contributions from stock brokers, an oilman, bankers, doctors and a union group. The taint of illegality again will settle on the Vice Presidency.

Oddly, the resignation of Agnew and the naming of Ford comes at the same time that the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the lower Federal Court decision stating that Nixon must submit the White House Tapes to Judge John Sirica. The entire exposure of Agnew's financial dealings has occured at a time when Nixon's own participation in the Watergate affair and the shady dealings involving the purchase of his homes in Florida and California are still under scrutiny.

U.S. District Attorney, James Thompson, said of Agnew, "He's a crook, and the country is well rid of him." Professor John Morton Blum called the resignation, "the best news since V-J Day." In a recent poll, more Americans were shown to have trust in used car salesmen than in politicians. The American people appear to have lost faith in the political system as well as the unfair judicial system. They have lost faith in the unending parade of Nixon appointees: John Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, L. Patrick Gray and Spiro Agnew. It seems more and more that Americans are looking for an alternative to the bankrupt politics of the United States today.

SUBSCRIBE: WINTER SOLDIER

$6/YEARLY
$9/FOREIGN
FREE TO PRISON
$3/GI S
15/INSTITUTION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR, INC.
827 W. NEWPORT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60657

CHILE --continued

and their dependency on a limited number of exports. Chile was a vulnerable victim. In the end, all the U.S. needed was the Chilean military to actually do the killing for it -- a military that had been trained and funded by the U.S.

The present conditions in Chile can only be described as reminiscent of Nazi Germany during the 1930s. The operation to seize the presidential palace and take Santiago was aptly named Plan Djakarta after the massacre of one million Indonesian leftists in 1965. The intent was a planned war of extermination. Thousands of Chileans have already been summarily executed or killed in fighting. Thousands more are suffering imprisonment and the most barbaric tortures imagineable at the hands of the Junta. One of the largest factories in Chile was bombed with over 500 workers killed. Working class housing areas have also been bombed, their inhabitants rounded up and summarily executed. And on it goes. Books are burned, people are forced to turn in their neighbors to the police. City ordinances are passed like Edict #10 of Temuco, a small town in the south of Chile, proclaiming that for "every innocent dead, 10 detainees will be killed!" The largest paper in Chile, El Mercurio, prominently displayed a "letter to the editor" calling for an end to the "Jewish communist conspiracy and for a "Jew hanging from every lampost." Even Hitler didn't move quite that fast.

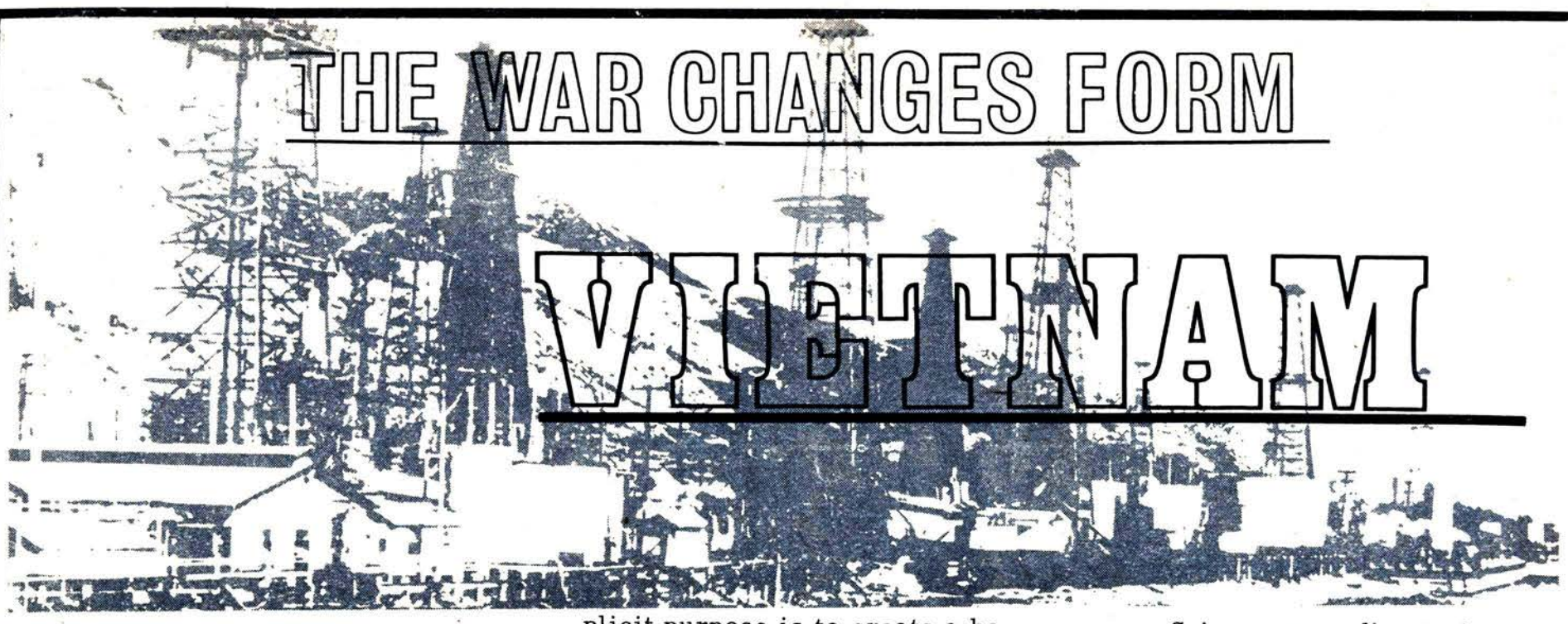
Perhaps the most ominous situation is that of the fate of 10,000 or so political exiles that fled military dictatorships all over Latin America for the safety of Allende's Chile. All indications are that those not already killed by the Junta will be shipped home to face execution or torture and long imprisonment.

The situation is desperate. All Americans must do everything in their power to demand that the U.S. put an end to the butchery. It was the U.S. that ordered it in the first place. But no matter how long the Junta will maintain its power in Chile, the people will never accept defeat. Just by pulling down Che's statue in Santiago, or by washing slogans off the walls, the will of the people will never be destroyed. As one Chilean worker said: We shall go back to work like good boys, keeping very quiet and getting ready for the next time...and then we shall have our revenge."

END THE BLOODBATH IN CHILE!

THE CHILEAN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE DEFEATED!

THE WAR CHANGES FORM



VIETNAM

After the defeat of the French in 1954, the U.S. Government continued to invest billions of dollars in Vietnam to maintain a friendly government in Saigon. It did this because the U.S. Government realized, like others before it, that Vietnam and the nations of the Pacific Basin possessed great potential as centers of profitable trade and investment. But it has been only recently that the tools for developing this potential have been constructed.

The United States' strategy for developing this potential consists of three parts. The first is to maintain local allies friendly to U.S. business interests that depend on U.S. investment for their survival. Multinational trade and investment agreements, government loans, government grants-in-aid and government investments are all geared toward promoting greater political allegiance between local business people and U.S. business interests. The second is to establish supra-national associations, agencies, capital pools and the like, maintained by state funding and controlled by multinational corporations to oversee development in accordance with pre-established plans. The International Monetary Fund, the Export-Import Bank, the World Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank encourage such development. The third part is to establish local standing armies and police forces patterned after their U.S. counterparts.

One important method of developing the profit potential of Indochina is through regional organizations. The largest organization of this type is PBECC (Pacific Basin Economic Cooperation Council) which was formed in 1967 by representatives from multinational corporations in the U.S., Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Its explicit purpose is to create a homogeneous market for trade and investment in the Pacific.

Another important tool in developing investment potential is the use of surveys. In 1967, the U.S., AID (Agency for International Development), ADB (Asian Development Bank) and others began funding a $3 million survey which was just completed on the prospects for a transportation system in Southeast Asia. Prepared by the U.S. firm of Arthur D. Little, the Southeast Asia Regional Transportation Survey proposes a network of transportation projects that are a clear invitation to foreign investors in agriculture and extractive industries. The survey recommends a comprehensive, twenty-year program of 145 transportation projects. These projects are expected to cost $3.25 billion and to be financed by private investments, international low-interest loans and state subsidies, largely from the U.S. and Japan.

Since 1968, ECAFE (Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East) has sponsored geophysical surveys in the South China Sea that have greatly benefited United States, Japanese and European oil consortiums, according to the Oil and Gas Journal. The offshore area is, in the words of the trade journal Offshore, "probably the largest contiguous continental shelf area in the world." With the recent oil concessions granted by the Thieu regime, it is evident that these surveys have borne fruit.

The results of two six-year, $14 million plans were released in July, 1971. Conducted by the U.S.-controlled Mekong Committee Secretariat in Bangkok, the Draft Amplified Basic Plan outlines an overall scheme for the entire Mekong River Basin.

The Private Investment Co. of Asia (PICA) is a multinational combine, which includes 28 U.S. firms, that has already begun investing in Indochina. Both Ford and American Motors plan assembly plants near Saigon, according to American Report. And Ford has proposed a $6 million assembly operation for autos, trucks, tractors and agricultural machinery at a site near Bien Hoa. Philco established an office in Saigon in 1967 and continues to make enormous profits in such areas as communications and electronics. Shell, Esso and Caltex have been marketing petroleum products in Vietnam for many years.

U.S. planners, working with South Vietnamese government officials, have managed to revamp legal codes, educational programs, occupational training, police and military organization, land distribution, farming techniques, transportation systems, fiscal policies and the like in accordance with the aims of multinational corporations. The most recent example of this in South Vietnam is the 1972 investment law. This law contains no limitation on the percentage of profit return for foreign businesses, business tax exemptions are now scheduled to last fifteen years and income taxes have been sharply reduced. Even further, the law guarantees that the Vietnamese government will not permit local companies to compete with foreign firms.

U.S. companies have benefited not only during the overt war, but now they stand to profit from the effects of that war. Free fire zones forced millions of people to the cities; now they represent a source of cheap labor and a large market for consumer products. The abandonment of small scale farming opens up a market for new machinery as well as profitable food production. When the U.S. turned over its military apparatus to Saigon it opened the door for civilian contractors like Lear-Siegler, Northrop and NHA to continue the war effort by aiding the Saigon military through Pentagon contracts. U.S. imperialism consists of both military and business operations; and a peaceful Vietnam will not be possible until U.S. military personnel as well as U.S. corporate personnel leave that country.

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR
WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL OFFICES:

ALASKA - WASHINGTON
VVAW/WSO
215 Viking Union WWSC
Bellingham, Washington 98225
(206) 676-3460 X 22

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI-TENNESSEE
VVAW/WSO
1317 14th Avenue
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
(205) 345-9919

NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA
VVAW/WSO
PO Box 461
Placitas, New Mexico 87043
(505) 843-6719

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA
VVAW/WSO
1810 East Anahiem
Long Beach, California 90813
(213) 591-4218

COLORADO-UTAH-WYOMING
VVAW/WSO
PO Box 18591
Denver, Colorado 80218
(303) 572-1543

CONNECTICUT-RHODE ISLAND
VVAW/WSO
53 Wall Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511
(203) 453-3312

E. PENNSYLVANIA-DELAWARE
S. NEW JERSEY
VVAW/WSO
2440 Kensington Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125
(215) GA3-3161

IDAHO-MONTANA
Travis Opdyke
4410 Emerald
Boise, Idaho 83704
(208) 344-3232

N. ILLINOIS-IOWA
VVAW/WSO
618 1/2 E. Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
(815) 758-8410

S. ILLINOIS-E. MISSOURI-ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA
VVAW/WSO
1023 Allen Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63104
(314) 621-2648

WASHINGTON DC- MARYLAND
VIRGINIA
VVAW/WSO
1590 Annapolis Road
Odenton, Maryland 21113
(301) 569-9499

FLORIDA - GEORGIA
Carl Brown
PO Box 11212
Tampa, Florida 33610
(813) 626-7320

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA
Glenn Plott
1604 Bickett Boulevard
Raleigh, North Carolina 27608

OREGON
Allen Tlusty
525 E. 11th Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401
(503) 686-0028

TEXAS
John Kniffen
PO Box 12986
Austin, Texas 78711

KANSAS-W. MISSOURI-NORTH DAKOTA-SOUTH DAKOTA-NEB.
VVAW/WSO
306 W. 39th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
(816) 753-1619

LOUISIANA
VVAW/WSO
PO Box 849
LSU-NO Lake Front
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122
(504) 288-1674

OHIO-INDIANA-KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA - W. PA. - MICHIGAN
Pete Zastrow
PO Box 19302
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
(606) 441-3811

WISCONSIN-MINNESOTA
John Lindquist
2439 N. Fratney
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212
(414) 562-9371

NEW ENGLAND
VVAW/WSO
550 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
(617) 354-9772

NEW YORK-N. NEW JERSEY
VVAW/WSO
P.O. Box 92 - Ellicott Station
Buffalo, New York 14205
(716) 886-8645

NATIONAL OFFICE
VVAW/WSO
827 W. Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(312) 935-2129

Project Offices

GARY LAWTON DEFENSE COMM
c/o RPPDC
PO Box 5154
San Bernardino, California 92412

OPERATION COUNTY FAIR
see Alabama-Miss.-Tenn.

AMNESTY CLEARINGHOUSE
see National Office

POST VIETNAM SYNDROME CLEARINGHOUSE
see Wisconsin-Minnesota

NOSCAM (National GI Office)
PO Box 1625
Dayton, Ohio 45401
(513) 274-3171

WHAT IS VVAW-WSO

Vietnam Veterans Against the War began in 1967 in New York City when six anti-war veterans marched in a demonstration under the banner "Vietnam Veterans Against the War." This first public action was followed by many more in the years to come.

Operation Rapid American Withdrawal (RAW) was a forced march by 150 vets from Trenton, N.J. to Valley Forge. This march, in the fall of 1970, was one of the earliest national VVAW actions. Along the march route vets conducted mock "search and destroy" missions, interrogation of prisoners, and other lessons well learned in Vietnam. During Operation RAW the original objectives of VVAW were formulated.

The trial of Lt. Calley was a major force behind convening the Winter Soldier Investigation into American War Crimes committed in Southeast Asia. This investigation, held in Detroit in January 1971, saw over 150 veterans testifying about war crimes they had committed. The message to the American people was clear: My Lai was not an aberration but the calculated result of American imperialistic policy in Vietnam. Several congressional inquiries, a book, and 3 documentary movies came out of the WSI.

With the spring of 1971 came Dewey Canyon III, a limited incursion into the halls of Congress. Dewey Canyon I and II had taken place in Southeast Asia without the knowledge or consent of the American people; VVAW was now determined to be heard. For a week, members of VVAW lobbied with Congressmen, testified in hearings, performed guerilla theater, and engaged the people of Washington, D.C. in a continuing dialogue. On Friday, 1100 vets returned the medals they had been awarded by the government for military service. This was the final break, and the return of the medals signified the ultimate act of revulsion for what these medals stood for.

The summer of 1971 saw a general lull in anti-war activity the country over. VVAW began to move in a new direction -- into our communities. We began the process of learning that the war was only a symptom, that as long as the American economic structure could profit from the exploitation of working and third people at home and around the world, wars like Vietnam would continue. During all of this, however, we did not forget about the war. Christmas, 1971, found 16 members of VVAW holding the Statue of Liberty captive. The war was again front page news.

As VVAW's community ties grew stronger VVAW grew in size; first into a truly national organization, then into an international one. With this increase in size came certain problems -- we became too much of a threat for the government to ignore. Governmental attempts to silence the work of VVAW/WSO is clearly seen when viewing the Gainesville 8 trial -- a trial of 8 of our members who were indicted on charges to violently disrupt the Republican National Convention. As an organization, we were victorious in Gainesville and have proved to the government that we are not about to be stopped.

VVAW took part in actions at both the Democratic and Republican conventions. Our demonstrations there were both legal and peaceful. We went to Miami Beach with the people's most dangerous weapon, the truth -- and to prevent the people from hearing that truth, the government had to use spies, infiltrators, and agents to provoke violence.

When Coronation (Inauguration) Day 1973 arrived, VVAW again returned to Washington. Over 5,000 people strong, we marched, signed the 9-point peace agreement with the Vietnamese people, and returned to our communities.

The signing of the peace treaty by our government has left us with no illusions about the future. We were the sailors in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964, and there are brothers and sisters in the military today who may well be participants in a future Gulf of Tonkin incident. We have learned that only a radical change in the system of this country can possibly prevent the wars of the future.

As we learned what was behind the Vietnam War, and as we went into our communities to work, we found people who agreed with our objectives but who were not veterans (though all Americans are in fact Vietnam veterans). To broaden our base of membership, we added "Winter Soldier Organization" to our name to become the present Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization.

WHAT IS VVAW/WSO DOING TODAY?

National projects of VVAW/WSO include work in military counseling, securing unconditional amnesty for the American victims of the Indochina War (exiles, draft and military resisters, people with less-than-honorable discharges), volunteer work in VA hospitals, setting up rap groups to help our brothers and sisters with Post-Vietnam Struggle (PVS), building and staffing a medical clinic in Bogue Chitto, Alabama, and supporting the United Front of Cairo, Illinois. Local chapters work on various community projects and almost every chapter is involved in work around political prisoners and repression in the community.

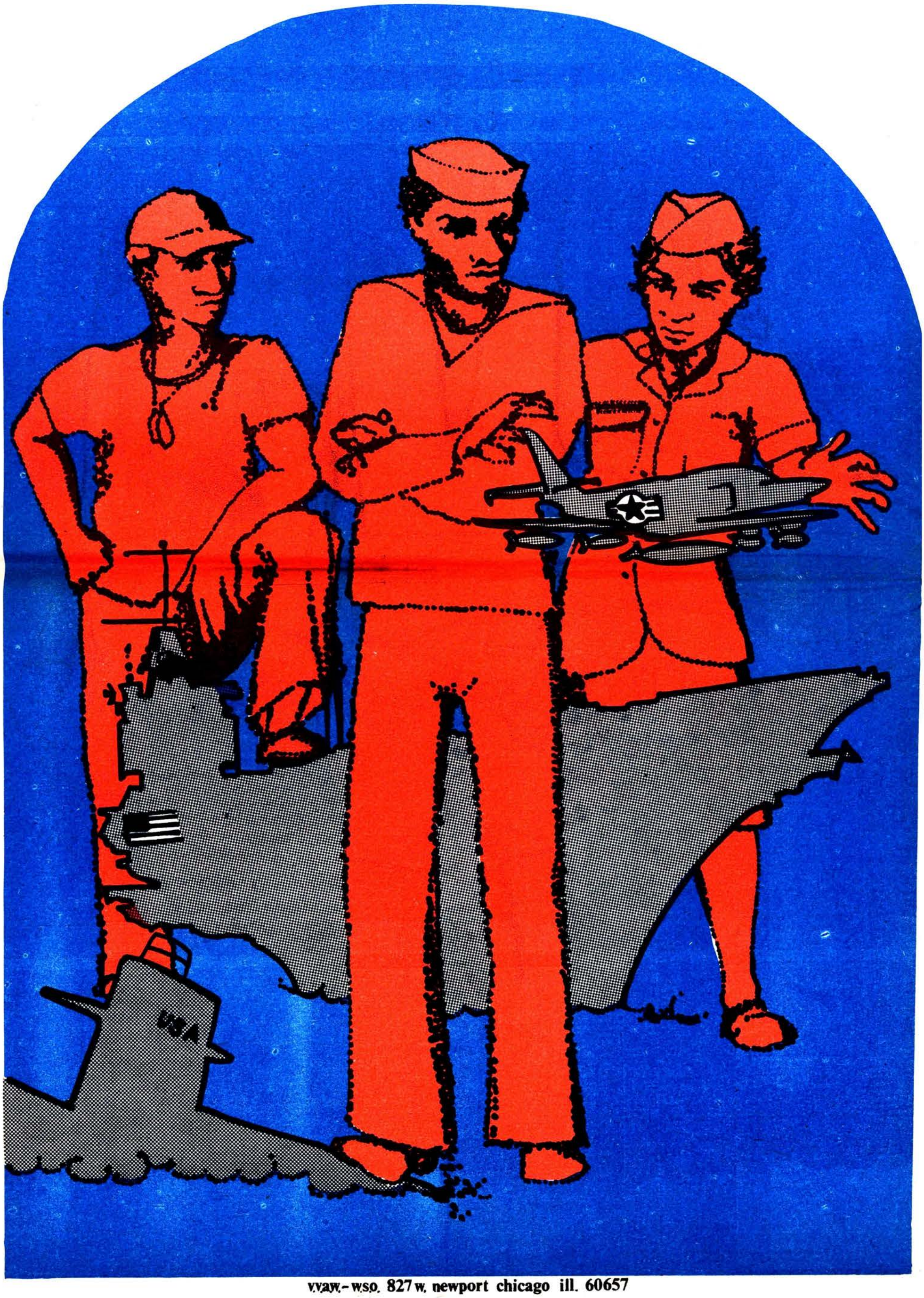
HOW IS VVAW/WSO OPERATED?

The most basic and important participant in the operation of VVAW/WSO is the individual member. The members elect chapter coordinators or representatives who are responsible for the local operation. Each chapter is represented at Regional meetings which are held at least four times a year. Each region is the responsibility of a regional coordinator or regional collective. Regions are represented on the National Steering Committee, a group that meets three times a year to formulate policy for the organization. The regional representatives elect the national collective. This collective operates the VVAW/WSO national office and serves as the functional head of the organization between national steering committee meetings.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

There is one basic requirement for membership in VVAW/WSO: agreement with the ten objectives and a willingness to work toward their implementation. To join, contact the national office or your regional address as listed above.

BUILD
THE GI MOVEMENT



v.v.a.w.-w.s.o. 827 w. newport chicago ill. 60657